

**DeForest Area School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 17, 2025– 6:00 pm.**

1.	<p>Convene</p> <p>President Gail Lovick called the March 17, 2025 regular meeting of the DeForest Area School District’s Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the District Office, 500 S. Cleveland Avenue, DeForest, WI 53532.</p> <p>Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Toetz verified that the meeting was properly noticed.</p> <p>Board members present: Jan Berg, Brian Coker, Sue Esser, Jeff Hahn, Linda Leonhart, Gussie Lewis, Gail Lovick, Stephanie Sarr, and Megan Taylor. Also present were administrators Dr. Rebecca Toetz, Kathleen Davis-Phillips, Dyanna Kadrach, Kate Dabetic, Chris Smith, Nate Jaeger, Roz Craney, and Kathy Williams.</p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p> <p>Megan Taylor recited the DeForest Area School District’s Mission, Vision, and Equity Statements.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the Agenda</p> <p>A. Approve Agenda</p> <p>On a motion by Leonhart, seconded by Lewis, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the agenda was approved, with an amendment to move Agenda Item 8, Public Input, ahead of Agenda Item 7, Board Conversation.</p>
3.	<p>Public Hearing Regarding Act 95 Waiver</p> <p>Public Hearing on request to DPI pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 118.38, for the DeForest Area High School to seek a waiver of the following requirement under Wisconsin Guaranteed Admission Program, Wis. Stat. Sec. 118.58, “prepare a class ranking of pupils enrolled in the high school as of the class’s completion of grade 11. Pupils shall be ranked on the basis of academic achievement and the sole criterion for ranking pupils shall be the pupil’s grade point average.”</p> <p>School Board President, Gail Lovick, announced that the public hearing regarding an Act 95 Waiver was now open at 6:04 pm. Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Toetz explained that the 2023 Wisconsin Act 95 requires school boards that operate high schools to prepare a class ranking of pupils for the purposes of facilitating guaranteed admissions to the University of Wisconsin System (UWS), and requires the Board of Regents of the UWS to establish a guaranteed admissions program for applicants who achieve certain academic rankings. Specifically, the act requires school boards that operate high schools with at least 15 pupils in a given class to prepare a class ranking of pupils at the end of 11th grade. The class ranking must be made solely on the basis of a pupil’s grade point average. Each class ranking must identify those pupils who rank in the top five percent of their high school class</p>

	<p>and those pupils who rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class. Under Act 95, the class ranking must be made solely on the basis of a pupil's grade point average.</p> <p>The DeForest Area School District is working to complete the application for a waiver from the Act 95 requirements to utilize Laude status instead of only Grade Point Average for qualification. Director of Instruction, Grades 7-12, explained the laude system. Jon Rouse explained that every department at the high school has laude classes available for students.</p> <p>Last year was the first year of Act 95 implementation and DASD, along with all school districts in the state used Grade Point Average as stated in the statute. DASD Administration received several complaints about the use of GPA alone because it negates the philosophy of rewarding rigor of coursework. Last summer DASD administration and several parents contacted local legislators to inform them about the impact of using GPA only and also to advocate for a waiver possibility which DASD is now pursuing.</p> <p>Members of the audience were given an opportunity to ask questions or make comments. After all questions were answered, Board President Gail Lovick announced that the public hearing was closed at 6:36 pm.</p>
4.	<p>Possible Board action regarding Act 95 Waiver</p> <p>A. Consideration of and action on a Resolution that would request for a waiver from the Department of Public Instruction, under s. 118.38 of the Wisconsin Statutes, that would allow the DeForest Area High School to determine its top 10% and 5% of rising 12th grade students for the Wisconsin Guaranteed Admissions Program (as established in 2023 Wisconsin Act 95 and section 118.58 of the state statutes) by using the District's Laude System instead of exclusively using students' grade point average.</p> <p>On a motion by Taylor, seconded by Esser, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to approve a Resolution that would request a waiver from the Department of Public Instruction, under s. 118.38 of the Wisconsin Statutes, that would allow the DeForest Area High School to determine its top 10% and 5% of rising 12th grade students for the Wisconsin Guaranteed Admissions Program (as established in 2023 Wisconsin Act 95 and section 118.58 of the state statutes) by using the District's Laude System instead of exclusively using students' grade point average. The Resolution was approved with an 8-1 vote, with Taylor, Berg, Coker, Sarr, Lovick, Esser, Lewis, and Leonhart voting yes. Hahn voted no.</p>
5.	<p>Board Education</p> <p>A. Presentation by Village of Windsor officials on area growth and development, as it relates to the DeForest Area School District</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Village of Windsor Board President, Bob Wipperfurth and Jamie Rybarczyk, Community Development Director & Deputy Administrator, presented information from the Village of Windsor's website regarding Windsor's long range comprehensive plan. They spoke about area growth and development, future estimates, and how the growth relates to the DeForest Area School District. More information can be found on the Village of Windsor's website.</p>

6.	<p>Board Business & possible Board action</p> <p>A. Board consideration of approval to withdraw from the Dane County School Consortium (DCSC), effective June 30, 2025 in accordance with the applicable by-laws and intergovernmental agreement</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Toetz, explained that the Dane County Schools Consortium (DCSC) is a consortium where each of the 16 school districts pay a membership fee toward helping with some of the coordinating of the workplace learning opportunities for area high school students. Withdrawing from the DCSC is something the administration has been considering for a few months and other Dane County school districts are pursuing withdrawal with their School Boards, as well. One of the advantages to withdrawing is that funding will go to districts directly and there will no longer be a membership fee. Director of Instruction & Curriculum, Grades 7-12, Chris Smith explained that there will be no disruption to the programming from the students' perspective. Austin Hofer, DASD District CTE Coordinator, will oversee the program and he supports the withdrawal. The Department of WorkForce Development currently supports Youth Apprenticeship programming and that will continue. The withdrawal from the DCSC eliminates a middle management step.</p> <p>On a motion by Berg, seconded by Lewis, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to approve the District's withdrawal from the Dane County School Consortium (DCSC), effective June 30, 2025, in accordance with the applicable by-laws and intergovernmental agreement. The vote passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p> <p>B. Consider authorizing Superintendent to vote on potential dissolution of the Dane County School Consortium (DCSC)</p> <p>On a motion by Hahn, seconded by Sarr, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to authorize Superintendent, Dr. Rebeca Toetz to vote on a potential dissolution of the Dane County School Consortium (DCSC). The vote passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p>
8.	<p>Per agenda amendment, this item was moved to before Item 7.</p> <p><u>Public Input</u></p> <p>President, Gail Lovick read public input comments regarding live streaming and recording Board meetings by Brandon Jakubik, Nick Schreck, McKenzie Leeder, and Bonnie Held.</p> <p>Earlier in the meeting, during the Public Hearing on the Act 95 Waiver, Josh and Amy Meinen provided public input comments regarding the waiver.</p>
7.	<p>Board Conversation</p> <p>A. Board quarterly self-evaluation covering Governance Policies GC-7, Board Members' Code of Conduct, GC-8, Board Member Conflict of Interest, and GC-9 Process for Addressing Board Member Violations</p>

	<p><u>Discussion:</u> The Board conducted a self-evaluation based on Governance Policies (GC) GC-7, Board Members' Code of Conduct, GC-8, Board Member Conflict of Interest, and GC-9 Process for Addressing Board Member Violations. The Board reflected on what they are doing well with each policy and what could be improved on. More discussion on the reflections will be held at a future Board retreat.</p>
9.	<p>Board Consent Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Accept Minutes - March 10, 2025 B. Approve addition of Board Mentor to Board Procedure, BP-4A Onboarding Timeline C. Approval of Monitoring Report Summary Statement for Board Policy R-3, Self-Directed Complex Thinkers D. Approval of OE-4, Personnel Recommendation Monitoring Report indicator changes <p>Lewis made a motion, Berg seconded, to approve the Board Consent Agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.</p>
10.	<p>Superintendent Consent Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Vouchers Payable/Treasurer's Report Paid: 210591 - 210610, 242501974 - 242502051, 202400484-202400484 <p>Leonhart made a motion, Lewis seconded, to approve the Superintendent's Consent Agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.</p>
11.	<p>Press Verification</p> <p>No member of the press was present at this time.</p>
12.	<p>Board Debrief</p>
13.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The Board of Education adjourned at 7:52 pm on a motion by Hahn, seconded by Sarr, and passed unanimously by voice vote.</p>
	DASD BOE President Signature:
	Date: